

REMARKS

Claims 2-21, 24-29, 32 and 33 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki (US 5,757,496) in view of Watson (U.S. 3,761,186). Claim 23 was canceled without prejudice regarding its subject matter in order to bring the patent application to early allowance. Claims 24 and 25 were made to depend from allowable claim 26. Therefore these rejections are now moot. For the record, Applicants disagree that claims 23-25 are unpatentable over Yamazaki in view of Watson and reserve the right to seek examination of these claims in a future continuation application.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 2-21, 27-29, 32 and 33 were allowed. The Examiner states that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 26 to put it independent form. Claims 24 and 25 depend from amended claim 26. Therefore, all the pending claims should now be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1295.

Respectfully submitted,

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